National Project on Biogas Development

2128. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Project on biogas development with a subsidy of Rs. 3500/- per Biogas Plant has been provided for Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether similar National Project with a subsidy of Rs. 5000/- per plant has been provided for Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether the agro-climatic/demographic/geographical conditions of both the States are almost same;

(d) if so, the reasons for discrimination in subsidy between the two States;

(e) whether Government propose to provide at par subsidy to Himachal Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However these were the rates during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However there is no discrimination in the amount of central subsidy given for setting up of family type biogas plants in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir during 1989-99 under the Central Sector Scheme "National Project on Biogas Development".

(e) and (f) The amount of central subsidy given for setting up of family type biogas plants in these two States during 1989—99 is at par, i.e., Rs. 3,200/-per plant.

Coastal Zone Contamination

2129. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ocean is being threatened with coastal zone contamination; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed by India to save oceans eco-system from pollution to save seals, whales and dolphins becoming sick?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Ocean Development is implementing a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional pollution monitoring programme since 1991, called "Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMAPS)" along the East and West Coasts of India and in the Islands of Andaman and Lakshadweep. Based on the systematic scientific data collected under this programme, the sea coast beyond 2 km along the coastline of India is found to be clean except off Mumbai, where the sea is found to be clean beyond 5 Km. Pollution levels at locations other than Mumbai are low and unlikely to affect the marine life like seals, whales and dolphins. The results of the observations made under this programme are also periodically made available to the Central and State Pollution Control Boards for enabling them to take legal mitigatory/preventive measures.

Coastal Erosion and Ecosystem

2130. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMCHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether global coastal erosion was continuing unabated in many areas and several low lying areas are disappearing; and

(b) if so, the initiative taken by India in international meets to check the coastal eco-system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) As per some of the reports available from the UN organisations and other regional bodies, globally there is an increasing trend in coastal erosion, leading to loss of coastal land in some parts of the world. The erosion in coastal areas is caused by a number of factors such as storm surges, wave